

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 498

By Green

A RESOLUTION to recognize Tommy Vallejos for his meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we all can be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Tommy Vallejos, who has dedicated his life to uplifting and inspiring others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vallejos is a staunch advocate for the rights of Latinos in their communities, and works tirelessly to promote faith, family, freedom, and fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vallejos holds a Bachelor of Arts in Practical Theology from the North Tennessee Bible Institute and Seminary, and currently serves as care pastor of Faith Outreach Church; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Clarksville, Tommy Vallejos was born in the barrios of Roswell, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, after losing two brothers and a stepfather to gang violence, he chose a different path and joined the United States Army in 1980; and

WHEREAS, while serving as staff sergeant in the Gulf War, he led an infantry platoon from the 101st Airborne Division into combat, and was awarded the Bronze Star for Action. Mr. Vallejos retired from the United States Army in 2001 after twenty-one years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, it was while serving in South Korea that Mr. Vallejos accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior; in 1997, he and his wife founded the Christian Servicemen Center in Hohenfels, Germany; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vallejos's history of public service includes serving as the first-ever Latino elected as County Commissioner in Tennessee; he previously rendered sterling service as the Middle Tennessee director and treasurer of the Tennessee County Commissioner Association before assuming his current position of president; and

WHEREAS, now serving his second term as a Montgomery County Commissioner, Tommy Vallejos also serves on the Budget Committee, the School Liaison Committee, the Personnel Committee, the Rules Committee, and the Delinquent Tax Committee. In addition, he serves as chairman of Latinos for Tennessee, an organization that cultivates awareness about issues facing the members of the Latino community in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, honoring his commitment to stopping gang violence, Mr. Vallejos travels around the country teaching gang awareness classes to schools, communities, and churches; he also counsels and mentors former gang members to help them become productive members of society. He preaches the Gospel to prison inmates, providing hope and restoration where there is little; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Vallejos has been married to the love of his life, Caroline Vallejos, for thirty years; they are the proud parents of four children, and the loving grandparents of three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Tommy Vallejos for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend Tommy Vallejos for rendering

meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee, and we extend to him our best wishes for continued success in all in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.